I.G. has been posted as Director (Security) in O.N.G.C. in the North-East region.

Control of Water Hyacinth

1303. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water hyacinth weed could be effectively controlled by releasing Neochatina Weevils;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise this technique to control the water hyacinth which block several irrigation canals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Central Integrated Pest Management Centres under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage have demonstrated succeessful control of water hyacinth by releasing *Neochatin* weevils in the an area of 5286 ha. in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Similar promosing results have been achieved by the institutions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Kerala Agricuiturai University.

As for irrigation canals, some releases have been made wherever request has been received from the concerned authorities.

World Bank Report on Fisheries

1304. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Report titled "Fisheries and Aqua culture Research Capabilities and Needs in Asia," forecasts that there is likely to be a stagnancy in marine catch along the coastline in inshore area;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to tackle this situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The World Bank Report has not yet come to the notice of the Government. However there has been a steady growth in the production of fish from coastal waters in recent years.

(c) However, Government are taking steps to extend the range of operation of the fishing vessels to off shore waters by motorisation of traditional craft, introduction of off shore pelagic fishing boats, etc.

Request for Participation of Oil India Limited in Gas Cracker Project

1305. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has requested the Union Government to allow Oil India Limited to participate in a Gas cracker Project with a substantial equity holding; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Tissue Culture Technique

1306. PROF. UMMAREDDY